

FORM 1

Inventory Source: _____

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Number/Name **East Dish WY-030-17N85W35-2012** Acreage 13260.08

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes X No

Describe the boundaries of the area (roads, property lines, etc.). If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception. If more than one inventory area is involved, list the acres in each and evaluate each area/sub-area separately. In completing steps (1) – (5), use additional space as necessary.

The western and southern boundary is delineated by County Road 640. The northern boundary is delineated by County Road 408 and the eastern boundary is delineated by a line between private, state and public land. There is a state section inholding on the south side of the unit.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include acreage, land ownership, location, topography, vegetation and summary of the major human uses/activities).

The 13,260 acre unit consists entirely of public land managed by the Rawlins Field Office. The terrain is steep to gently rolling with an eastern aspect. The dominant vegetation is sagebrush/grassland with drainages having heavier sagebrush than the ridges. The primary land use is livestock grazing. Fences and other range improvements occur throughout the unit. The primary dispersed recreation activity is hunting. There is also evidence of people dumping garbage.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A ☐

Description: The 71.98 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) detract from the unit's naturalness. Examples of these primitive routes are demonstrated in the large-scale, fold-out aerial photo and photo 1. When hiking across the East Dish Unit, the casual observer cannot escape the constant view of primitive routes. These primitive routes create noticeable linear intrusions and disturbances that interrupt the experience of any wilderness character briefly encountered in areas untrammelled by the works of man.

The area contains one oil and gas well within the East Dish Unit (see location in large-scale aerial photo). This oil and gas installation within the unit was permanently abandoned in 1956 and has been reclaimed. This well is not substantially noticeable to the casual observer and, therefore, does detract from the naturalness of the unit.

The East Dish Unit also contains six man-made reservoirs (see locations in the large-scale aerial photo). When the casual observer encounters these man-made borrow pits and impounded reservoirs, the linear and textual contrast on the landscape attracts the attention of the observer to this modification constructed with mechanized equipment. As an example, the East Dish Unit contains a substantially noticeable, man-made, earthen dam which covers 1.6 surface acres and impounds a relatively large, unnamed reservoir in Section 30, T 17 N, R 84 W. When the casual observer encounters the earthen dam, the linear and textual contrast on the landscape attracts the attention of the observer to this obvious man-made modification constructed with mechanized equipment.

The casual observer is often attracted to bodies of water while hiking. Water adds interest and diversity to the landscape. When arriving at any of the six reservoirs, the casual observer would notice that it is not a natural lake and that they have encountered an impounded, muddy borrow pit. The hiker seeking refreshment from clean water, would quickly notice that this “reservoir” is designed for cattle operations where the water is unfit for human consumption or swimming. The numerous range improvements, including six reservoirs, four fences, and two water wells, were constructed, primarily, for commercial grazing operations. These improvements give the casual observer a perception that they are visitors to a cattle range rather than a wilderness untrammelled by the works of man. While the presence of cattle is compatible with a natural landscape for wilderness inventory purposes, the noticeable presence of numerous grazing-related developments in this unit is not.

In sum, the cumulative impacts on naturalness, including the numerous primitive routes and permanent range improvements, have impaired the naturalness in the East Dish Unit to a level that is incompatible with the definitions of wilderness provided in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (incorporated in FLPMA 1976):

A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

(3) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(4) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational scenic or historical value)?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

Summary of Analysis

Area Name and/or Number: East Dish WY-030-17N85W35-2012

Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities of solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Check one:

_____ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

__X__ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

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